



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:
October 22, 2003

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Rule would leave door wide open for jet skis at Amistad

Park Service ignores pollution, noise and safety problems, permits thrillcraft at recreation area

San Francisco, CA – The National Park Service released a proposed rule today for the use of personal watercraft (also known as jet skis) at Amistad National Recreation Area in Texas that would allow unlimited use of the craft at the park unit. Personal watercraft had been banned from Amistad since November 7, 2002 as a result of a lawsuit brought by Bluewater Network against the National Park Service.

“We are deeply disappointed by the Park Service’s course of action,” said Sean Smith, Public Land Director for Bluewater Network. “If this rule sticks, jet skis and all of the noise and pollution that comes with them will be allowed to run rampant at Amistad.”

The Park Service is proposing the rule despite a growing body of scientific evidence that personal watercraft are disproportionately more polluting, noisier, and more dangerous than other watercraft. For example, the California Air Resources Board has determined that a day’s ride on a jet ski with a two-stroke engine produces as much pollution as driving a modern automobile 100,000 miles. In addition, a recent study by the National Academy of Sciences found that small isolated oil spills like the ones produced by two-stroke powered jet skis have serious detrimental impacts to aquatic wildlife.

“With all of the evidence out there showing how jet skis negatively impacts park resources, it is mind-blowing that the Park Service would allow them unconditionally,” said Smith. The Park Service is mandated under the Organic Act to leave park resources unimpaired for future generations.

The Park Service is accepting public comment on the proposed rule until December 22, 2003. Comments can be sent to the Superintendent, Amistad National Recreation Area, HRC 3 Box 5J, Del Rio, Texas 78840.